

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 114078

R 280005Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2612

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1752

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, PINT, GT

SUBJECT: IMPENDING EXPULSION OF MARYKNOLL PRIESTS

REF: GUATEMALA 1687

1. SUBSEQUENT TO AMBASSADOR'S TALK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON MARYKNOLL PRIESTS (REFTEL), EMBASSY OFF AGAIN DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH FATHER BREEN, MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR, ON MARCH 23 AND 25. INASMUCH AS WE HAD DETERMINED THAT MINGOVERNMENT HERRERA WOULD BE OUT OF GUATEMALA UNTIL APRIL 1, BREEN DECIDED SEND ANOTHER TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT ARANA SEEKING APPOINTMENT SO HE COULD ATTEMPT CONVINCE PRESIDENT TO GIVE HIM SPECIFIC CHARGES AGAINST PRIESTS THAT BREEN MIGHT BE ABLE TO ANSWER. EMBASSY, IN SUPPORT OF BREEN'S TELEGRAPHIC REQUEST WHICH WAS SENT MARCH 25, CONTACTED PRESIDENTIAL PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE GENERAL LEONEL VASSAUX AND, ON INFORMAL BASIS, ASKED HIM TO SUPPORT REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT, EMPHASIZING TO HIM THAT WE BELIEVED IT TO BE IMPORTANT THAT BREEN HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH PRESIDENT AND TO LEARN FROM HIM EXACTLY WHAT WERE THE PRIESTS' ALLEGED ACTIVITIES WHICH HAD LET TO THE GOG DECISION TO OUST THEM. VASSAUX PROMISED HE WOULD TALK TO ARANA IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST THAT AFTERNOON (MARCH 26).

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2. BREEN RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM PRESIDENT MARCH 27
STATING THAT HE WAS SORRY THAT PRESSURE OF WORK
WOULD NOT GIVE HIM TIME RECEIVE BREEN, BUT THAT VICE
PRESIDENT CACERES WOULD BE HAPPY RECEIVE HIM AT
2:30 P.M. THAT SAME DAY. BREEN TOLD US THAT HE HAD
DECIDED TO ACCEPT APPOINTMENT WITH CACERES AND MAKE
SAME ARGUMENTS TO HIM WHICH HE HAD PLANNED TO MAKE
TO PRESIDENT.

3. AFTERNOON MARCH 27, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS VISIT WITH
CACERES, BREEN CALLED EMBASSY TO SAY HE FELT MEETING
HAD BEEN HELPFUL AND THAT HE WAS NOW
PREPARING MEMO THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED BREEN TO
SUBMIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE COVERING POINTS HE HAD MADE
IN HIS TALK. BREEN SAID THAT BECAUSE OF PRESSURE
OF TIME IN PREPARATION OF MEMO, HE COULD NOT COME
TO EMBASSY TO FILL US IN ON DETAILS, BUT WOULD DO SO
MORNING OF MARCH 28.
MELOY

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: CPRS, PINT, GT, US, (BREEN, JOHN)
To: STATE
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